

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2809
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
PRICES UNDER PDS
Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of below poverty line people in the country particularly in backward and rural areas, State-wise;
- (b) whether the price of foodgrains and other essential items available to above poverty line people under PDS is almost equal to the price prevailing in open market;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any measures to reduce the prices of foodgrains, sugar, kerosene etc. for above poverty line and below poverty line beneficiaries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

- (a): As per the Planning Commission poverty estimates released for 2004-05, number of persons living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in rural areas, based on Uniform Recall Period consumption (URP) is 2209.24 lakhs and percentage of BPL persons in rural areas is 28.3% in the country. The overall number and percentage of BPL persons State-wise based on the URP method is annexed.
- (b)&(c): No, Sir.
- (d): Does not arise.